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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Liophis dorsocorallinus Esqueda, Natera, La Marca and Ilija-Fistar, 2007 (Squamata: Dipsadidae): Distribution extension in southwestern Amazonia, state of Acre, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: We present a new distribution record of *Liophis dorsocorallinus* in the state of Acre, Brazil. The species was previously known only from three localities in Venezuela and Brazil.

The Neotropical genus *Liophis* is diverse, and the relationships between the more than 40 species it includes remain largely unknown (Dixon 1980; Fernandes *et al.* 2002). Although Zaher *et al.* (2009) proposed an amendment to the genera *Liophis* and *Erythrolamprus*, this was later refuted by Curcio *et al.* (2009).

Curcio *et al.* (2009) agree with other authors that *Liophis* is probably a polyphyletic genus, and thus the inclusion of the type species of the genera involved is highly desirable for analyses aiming to provide nomenclatural resolutions.

Until recently, *Liophis dorsocorallinus* (Figure 1) was only known from one locality in southwestern Venezuela (Esqueda *et al.* 2007). A subsequent publication reported one new location in western Brazil (Bernarde *et al.* 2011). Bernarde *et al.* (2011) also suggested that the specimen from southern Amazonas, Brazil, considered as *Liophis* sp. by França and Venancio (2010) is *Liophis dorsocorallinus*, but no additional information was provided.

Recently five additional specimens of *L. dorsocorallinus* (all females) were collected in Acre, Brazil. Specimens were collected under permits 27290-1 issued by SISBIO. We identified the specimens using the original description by Esqueda *et al.* (2007). Translated from the original description, Esqueda *et al.* (2007) stated:

"*Cephalic scales black, with reddish edges (most evident in the frontal, internasals and prefrontal) on the anterior lateral portion of the parietal there is a red spot that extends to the supralabials; supralabials yellow, slightly sprinkled with black, head ventrally yellow, including also the first third of the body, then it becomes red with more or less square or rectangular black spots, interspersed with each other, which fuse the most to the cloaca (reddish the last). Dorsum reddish with black scale tips; conspicuous yellow line at the level of the first two rows of dorsolateral scales, subcaudals reddish; iris orange with black pupil*".

Following these characters from Esqueda *et al.* (2007) we assigned this species to *Liophis dorsocorallinus* (for additional squamation comparisons see Table 1).

FIGURE 1. *Liophis dorsocorallinus* (UFAC-0378), female, SVL 460 mm, Parque Zoobotânico. Photo by: Paulo Roberto Melo-Sampaio

On 28 May 2008, 1000 h, during herpetofaunal sampling at Fazenda São Jorge I, municipality of Sena Madureira (09°26'11" S; 68°37'19" W) NMV found two specimens resting in the axil of a palm tree in a pasture.

On 28 November 2011 during sampling of road-killed herpetofauna on highway BR-364 between Rio Branco and Sena Madureira, PRMS and JMLM found an individual of *Liophis dorsocorallinus* near the city of Bujari (09°48'37.10" S, 67°59'6.90" W elevation 185m). Habitat adjacent to the highway was pastures and secondary forest.

On 6 January 2012 during herpetofaunal sampling at Parque Zoobotânico da Univesidade Federal do Acre (09°57'26" S, 67°52'25" W) in the municipality of Rio Branco, we found a specimen in a pitfall trap with drift fence in old-growth secondary forest. On 1 February 2012, 0800 h, at the same locality we encountered another individual of *Liophis dorsocorallinus* foraging on the ground. All specimens were collected and deposited into the Coleção Herpetológica da Universidade Federal do Acre (UFAC-0322-0323, UFAC-0378, UFAC-0396 and UFAC-0398).

Table 1. Comparison characters of *Liophis dorsocorallinus*. * Specimen with incomplete tail. ** Specimen road-killed. Dashes = data not available..

Liophis dorsocorallinus						
Character	**Esqueda *et al.* 2007**	**UFAC-0322**	**UFAC-0323**	**UFAC-0378**	**UFAC-0396**	**UFAC-0398****
Supralabials	8 (4,5)	8 (4,5)	8 (4,5)	8 (4,5)	8 (4,5)	-
Infralabials	8–9 (6)	9	9	9	9	-
Preoculars	1_2	1	1	2	1	-
Postoculars	2	2	2	2	2	-
Temporals	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	-
Ventrals	147–153 (MALES) 151 (FEMALE)	149	145	152	153	-
Subcaudals	69–80 (MALES) 69 (FEMALE)	62	66	45*	61	68
SVL (cm)	35.5–47.4 (MALES) 49(FEMALE)	52	39	46	49	-
TTL (cm)	48.5–62.6 (MALES) 66.4 (FEMALE)	67	62	56*	63	-

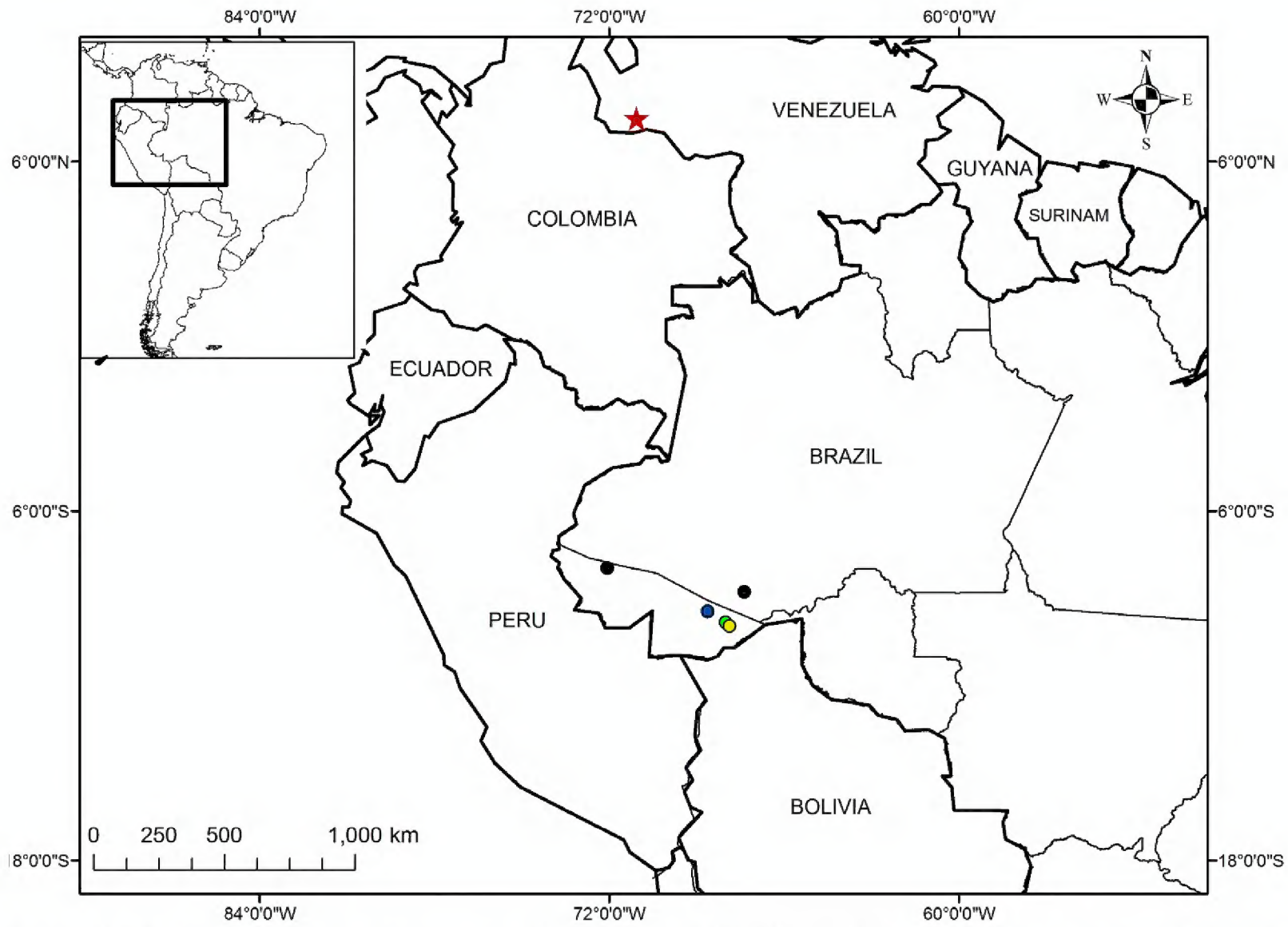

Figure 3. Geographic distribution of *Liophis dorsocorallinus*. Star = type-locality (Esqueda *et al.* 2007). Black dots: left, Riozinho da Liberdade (Bernarde *et al.* 2011); right, Boca do Acre (França and Venâncio 2010). New records (this study): Green dot – vicinity of Bujari city. Yellow dot – Parque Zoobotânico da Universidade Federal do Acre, Rio Branco. Blue dot – Fazenda São Jorge I, Sena Madureira.

These are the southernmost records of *Liophis dorsocorallinus* and extend its distribution 1960 km from the type locality and about 140 km southwest of the nearest locality, extending its distribution to the municipalities of Bujari, Rio Branco and Sena Madureira, eastern Acre (Figure 2).

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